MARVEL
PSR 51

BEDARD

SAKAKIBARA

X-FILES®

"BACK WHEN THE ***BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS*** WERE PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE, THE HEAT WAS ALWAYS ON ***ME***, OR ***MYSTIQUE***... OR EVEN ***BLOB***.

"NOBODY PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO ***DESTINY***.

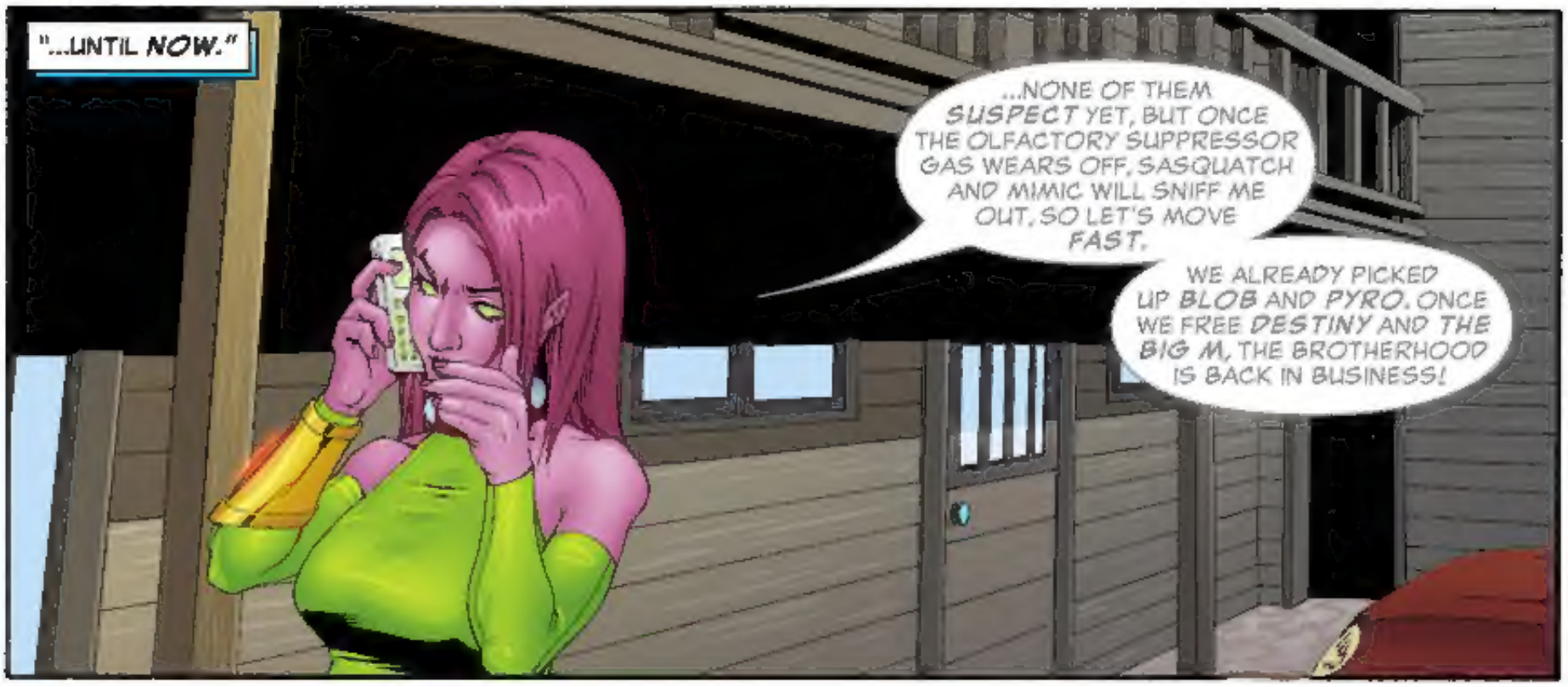
"BUT YEARS LATER, WHEN WE WERE ALL IN THE SLAMMER OR ON THE RUN, THAT BLIND OLD BATTLEAXE WAS THE ***KEY*** TO OUR COMEBACK.

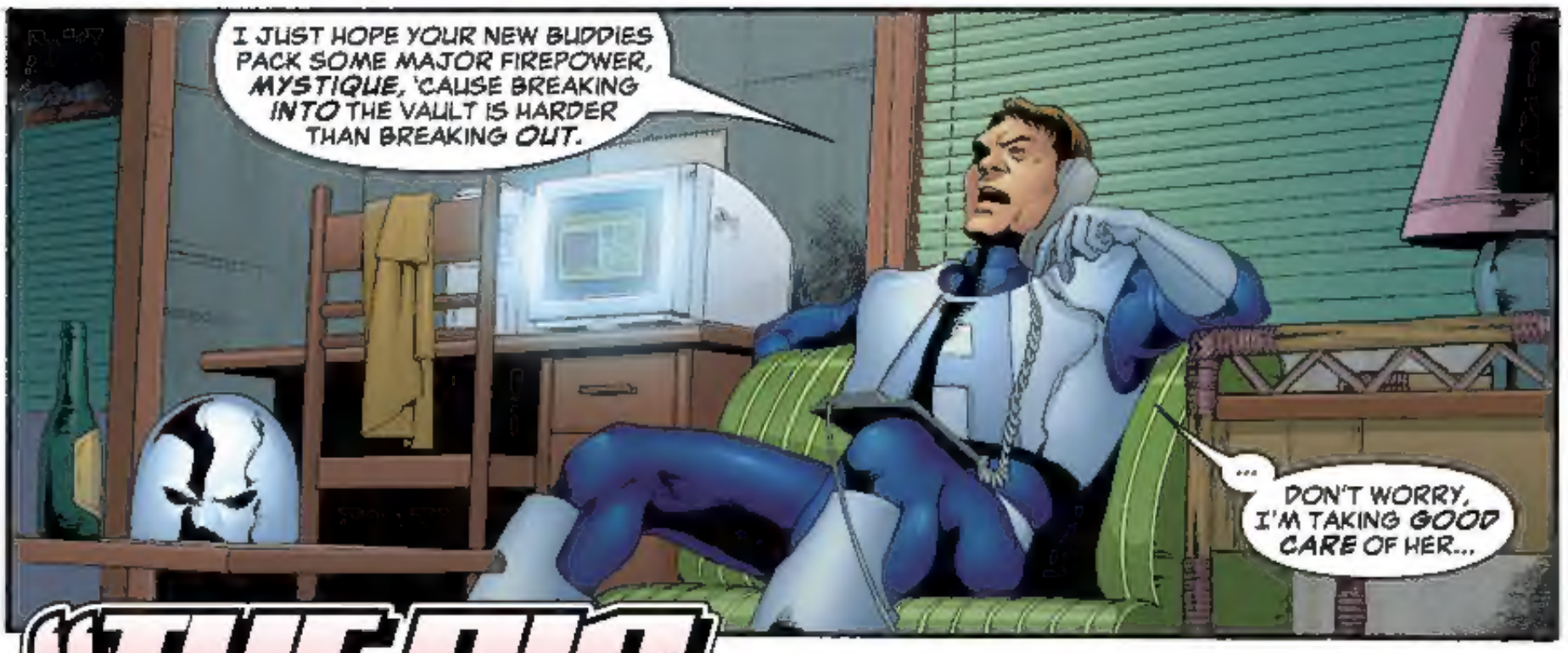
"DESTINY COULD SEE INTO THE ***FUTURE***. SHE KNEW A TEAM OF MUTANTS FROM ***OUTSIDE*** OUR REALITY WERE COMING TO 'FIX' OUR BROKEN WORLD. SHE KNEW ALL SORTS OF THINGS ABOUT THEM...

"...THEY CALLED THEMSELVES ***EXILES*** BECAUSE THEY TRAVELED LIKE NOMADS FROM ONE PARALLEL UNIVERSE TO THE NEXT, FIXING DISASTERS WHEREVER THEY WENT.

"THEIR WORLD-SAVING MISSIONS WERE TRANSMITTED TO THEM THROUGH A ***BRACELET TALISMAN*** WORN BY THEIR LEADER, ***BLINK***.

"AND WHEREVER THE EXILES ARRIVED, NO ONE EVER ***EXPECTED*** THEM. SURPRISE WAS ALWAYS ON THEIR SIDE..."


"...UNTIL NOW."
...NONE OF THEM SUSPECT YET, BUT ONCE THE OLFACTORY SUPPRESSOR GAS WEARS OFF, SASQUATCH AND MIMIC WILL SNIFF ME OUT, SO LET'S MOVE FAST.
WE ALREADY PICKED UP BLOB AND PYRO. ONCE WE FREE DESTINY AND THE BIG M, THE BROTHERHOOD IS BACK IN BUSINESS!


I JUST HOPE YOUR NEW BUDDIES PACK SOME MAJOR FIREPOWER, MYSTIQUE, 'CAUSE BREAKING INTO THE VAULT IS HARDER THAN BREAKING OUT.
...
DON'T WORRY, I'M TAKING GOOD CARE OF HER...

"THE BIG M" PART 2 OF 2

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JUST WATCH THE *DOSAGE*, AVALANCHE. TOO *LITTLE*, AND SHE'LL METABOLIZE IT OUT OF HER SYSTEM.

TOO *MUCH*, AND SHE'LL *DIE*...

...IN WHICH CASE *ANOTHER* EXILE APPEARS TO REPLACE HER, AND MY *COVER* IS BLOWN FOR SURE!

!

HEY, WANNA GRAB SOME *LUNCH*?

MORPH BET HE COULD EAT MORE CHEESEBURGERS THAN *BLOB*, SO THEY--

HEY, WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU *CALLING*, CLARICE?

BLOB HAD *AVALANCHE* ON SPEED-DIAL. SO I, AH...

IT'S ALL *SET*. AVALANCHE'LL MEET US NEAR THE VAULT *TONIGHT*.

YOU CONVINCED HIM OVER THE *PHONE*...? HE COULDN'T'VE BEEN *THAT* EASY TO--

--MMPH--?

SO IF EVERYONE'S OUT TO LUNCH, WE CAN FINALLY GRAB A MOMENT TO *OURSELVES*, HM?

CLARICE..!

WELL, I GUESS IT *HAS* BEEN A WHILE...

IF TEN MILLIGRAMS KEEPS YOU UNDER FOR TWO HOURS...

SLIK

...MAYBE A COUPLE *MORE* WILL KEEP YOU DOWN TILL OPRAH'S OVER...

OH, NO...

...OH, NO-NO-NO...

OH, *YES.*

FAPP

WHUNG

IS *THIS* WHAT YOU USED TO *KNOCK ME* OUT?!

SNATCH

BLINK

THAT *HURT*, YOU LITTLE WITCH! I'M GONNA *JAM* THAT NEEDLE IN YOUR--

WHU... WHERE DID YUH...?

YOUR *BRAIN*, AVALANCHE.

I 'PORTED IT STRAIGHT *INTO* YOUR BRAIN.

SWEET DREAMS, DIRTBAG.

TELL ME WHAT *HAPPENED*, TALLUS. LAST THING I REMEMBER, THERE WAS A *TRAIN DERAILMENT*, AND...

...

...OKAY...AND WHAT EXACTLY IS *"THE BIG M"* SUPPOSED TO BE...?

THIS IS A LOUSY TIME FOR *RIDDLES*, TALLUS. CAN'T YOU JUST TELL ME WHERE I *AM?* OR WHERE THE *OTHERS* WENT?

FINE, FINE... *I'LL* DO THE LEGWORK...

...JUST GOTTA LOG OFF THE EVER-SO-CHARMING "HONEYBUNS-DOT-COM" AND SEE IF THERE'S A DECENT *SEARCH ENGINE* IN THIS REALITY...

BINGO. NOW, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT A "BIG M"...?

TEK TEKKA-TEK KLAKKITY

NO WAY...

HEADLINES ARCHIVE

MNN.COM

CALVIN RANKIN CAPTURED

"THE BIG M" TO PAY FOR MASS-MURDER

CALVIN RANKIN, ALIAS "THE MIMIC," ALIAS "THE BIG M," WAS CAPTURED BY A COMBINED STRIKE FORCE OF THE AVENGERS AND S.H.I.E.L.D. TROOPS EARLIER TODAY IN WICHITA, KANSAS. THE INFAMOUS LEADER OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS WAS UNREPENTANT AS HE WAS HAULED OFF TO AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION FOR PROCESSING AND INTERROGATION. RANKIN'S CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, BOTH ON HIS OWN AND WITH HIS SO-CALLED "BROTHERHOOD," ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF OVER TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE, INCLUDING FORMER BROTHERHOOD LEADER ERIK LENSHERR (A.K.A. MAGNETO), NOTED MUTANT ACTIVIST CHARLES XAVIER, AND EVERY SINGLE YOUNG STUDENT AT XAVIER'S PRIVATE SCHOOL IN UPSTATE NEW YORK.

CONTINUED

I'M **WORRIED**, CLARICE. I DON'T WANT ANY GUARDS **HURT** WHEN WE HIT THE VAULT TONIGHT, BUT I'M NOT SURE **BLOB** AND **PYRO** WILL HOLD BACK.

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS, CALVIN. DESTINY KNOWS WE'RE COMING, BUT MIMIC **DOESN'T.**

HE'S DOWN IN CELL BLOCK OMEGA, WHERE THE INHIBITOR FIELDS **NULLIFY** HIS POWERS.

ONCE WE KNOCK OUT THEIR GENERATORS, THE INHIBITORS WILL BE DOWN AND THE BIG M WILL COME OUT **FIGHTING.**

HE **KNOWS** BLOB AND PYRO. HE DOESN'T KNOW **US,** SO THEY HAVE TO BE THE **FIRST** ONES TO REACH HIM. TRUST ME--IT'S WHAT THE **TALLUS** WANTS.

...YEAH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU **STARING** AT?

OH, NOTHING. JUST...YOU'RE SO **DIFFERENT** THAN THE MIMIC FROM THIS REALITY--I MEAN, YOU **MUST** BE...

HE'S THE REASON THE WORLD **FEARS** MUTANTS... BUT **YOU'RE** STILL SO CLEAN, AND PURE, AND **SOFT...**

HARDLY. DID YOU FORGET THE LIVES I TOOK BEFORE I SWORE **NEVER** TO KILL AGAIN? BECAUSE **I** HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN A SINGLE ONE.

THE WORLD CAN FEAR "THE BIG M" ALL THEY WANT...BUT **HE** SHOULD BE AFRAID OF **ME.**

REALLY NOW?

THE VAULT SUPERMAX PRISON, COLORADO

PICK UP, YOU IDIOT!

OFF LIMITS TRESPASSERS WILL BE ARRESTED

WARNING LETHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED

SOMETHING'S *WRONG*. AVALANCHE SHOULD *BE* HERE BY NOW...

RINGGG RINGGG RINGGG

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

I WAS *COUNTING* ON HIM TO CRACK THE WHOLE JAIL OPEN WITH AN *EARTH-QUAKE.*

NOW WE HAVE TO TAKE OUT THE ELECTRICS THE *HARD WAY.*

BEEP

IS IT JUST *ME*, OR DOES BLINK SEEM A LITTLE... *OFF* LATELY?

SHE *SMELLS* A BIT OFF, TOO. I THOUGHT IT WAS THAT CRUD I *INHALED* AT THE DERAILMENT, BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE...

"SO WHILE MYSTIQUE MOUNTED HER JAILBREAK FROM THE *OUTSIDE*--

CELL BLOCK OMEGA

"--THE *REAL* BLINK TELEPORTED PAST SECURITY AND CAME STRAIGHT TO MY CELL."

CELL BLOCK OMEGA

BLINK

...AND BY THE TIME MY SHIFT'S OVER, I'M GOIN' HOME WITH SPLITTING *HEADACHES.*

CELL BLOCK OMEGA

SAME THING USED TO HAPPEN TO ME. THE *CYBERNETIC INTERFACE* TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO.

CELL BLOCK OMEGA

JUST DON'T LET THE *INMATES* CATCH ON. THEY SENSE *ANY* WEAKNESS, AND THEY'LL *GO AFTER* YOU.

CELL BLOCK OMEGA

"OF COURSE, *I* HAD NO IDEA ANY OF THIS WAS GOING ON AT THE TIME...

CELL BLOCK OMEGA

"...HAVING SPENT THE LAST FEW *YEARS* ON LOCKDOWN, *CUT OFF* FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD."

TALLUS, YOU BETTER BE *RIGHT* ABOUT THIS..

WHO TH--?

'ZAT A *GIRL...?!*

HEY, TELL THE GUARDS I'M *HUNGRY*, WILLYA?!

COME *CLOSER*, DEAR! LET HYDE TAKE A *LOOK* AT YOU!

AW, NO...YOU'RE NOT A *GROUPIE*, ARE YOU? OR *WORSE*--ONE'A THE GOVERNMENT'S PET MUTANTS COME TO PICK MY BRAINS?

NEITHER. MY NAME IS *BLINK*, AND I'M HERE TO MAKE SURE *YOU* DON'T GET *OUT*.

FUNNY, I'D BEEN PLANNING ON *STAYING IN* TONIGHT...

...AND *YOU* MIGHT WANNA PLAN ON STICKING AROUND. SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE A STAFF BADGE, I *KNOW* YOU AIN'T DOWN HERE *LEGALLY.*

SEE THOSE THINGS IN THE CEILING? *INHIBITOR FIELD* PROJECTORS.

WHATEVER MUTANT TALENT GOT YOU *IN* HERE, IT WENT *POOF* THE MINUTE YOU STEPPED THROUGH THE DOOR

DOWN HERE, WE'RE *ALL* HOMO INFERIOR. ORDINARY. *POWERLESS.*

I KNOW. I TOOK THE *SCHEMATICS* FOR THIS PLACE FROM YOUR OLD PAL *AVALANCHE*...AFTER I WIPED THE FLOOR WITH HIM.

HM. THERE'S *MORE* TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE, BLINK. IF YOU RATE AN OMEGA CELL, MAYBE WE'LL GET TO *KNOW* EACH OTHER.

BELIEVE ME, CAL, I *ALREADY* KNOW YOU.

BESIDES, ONCE THE MISSION'S DONE, I'LL *MOVE ON* WHETHER OR NOT I'M LOCKED UP.

MEANING...?

BOOM

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

DON'T GET *TOO* EXCITED, BUT I THINK IT'S YOUR *RESCUE PARTY...*

"UP ABOVE, MYSTIQUE AND COMPANY HAD TRASHED THE GENERATOR AND ITS BACKUP. NOW THEY CONCENTRATED ON GETTING INSIDE."

BLOB! PYRO! GET IN THERE!

KEEP IT IN CHECK, PEOPLE! NOBODY DIES TONIGHT!

DID MIMIC SAY "NOBODY DIES," OR "NOBODY FRIES"?!

AIEEEE!

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS GUY, PYRO? THINKS WE COME TA PLAY PATTYCAKE!

HAR-DE-HAR.

THRUNCH!

MIMIC, WAIT!

YOU SWORE--!

"THE GUARDSMEN WERE DRAINING THE *EMERGENCY POWER RESERVES* AS THEY FOUGHT BACK UPSTAIRS."

SO...*BLINK*, WHAT EXACTLY *IS* YOUR MUTANT ABILITY...?

WOULDN'T *YOU* LIKE TO KNOW?

AS THE INHIBITORS LOST POWER, I WAS STARTING TO *FEEL* THINGS I HADN'T FELT IN *AGES*..."

ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL JUST *TRY* IT OUT FOR *MYSELF*...

TA-DA!

AH--!

BLOOK

HEY!

YOU SHOULDN'T'VE *DONE* THAT. I MIGHT NOT'A *HURT* YOU.

"BACK IN THE BAD OLD DAYS, BEFORE WE WIPED OUT XAVIER'S SCHOOL, I *MIMICKED* THE POWERS OF A LOT OF HIS *STUDENTS*.

"THIS WAS ONE OF MY *FAVORITES*. PICKED IT UP FROM A KID NAMED *GUTHRIE*-- CODE-NAMED *CANNONBALL*."

LONG AS I'M LIKE THIS, YOU CAN'T *TOUCH* ME!

"I'D ALSO MIMICKED *MAGNETO* WHEN HE RAN THE BROTHERHOOD FINISHING OFF THE INHIBITORS WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.

KRESH

KRENG

SPAKK

SPANG

"AND WHAT I TOOK FROM *XAVIER* MADE IT CHILD'S PLAY TO SEIZE *BLINK'S BRAIN* BEFORE SHE COULD TELEPORT AWAY."

!

DON'T *FIGHT* IT--YOU'LL JUST *SHRED* YOUR OWN MIND.

NOW, *EXACTLY* WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH *ME*...?

"IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO SAY IT, I KNEW *ALL ABOUT* THE EXILES AND THEIR REALITY-HOPPING MISSIONS.

"ONE OF BLINK'S TEAMMATES LOOMED LARGEST ON HER PSYCHIC LANDSCAPE-- *ME*. OR, RATHER, THE *CANDY-COATED* VERSION OF ME!

"*HER* MIMIC WAS GENTLE, GENEROUS, AND JUST PLAIN *NICE*...THINGS I WOULD NEVER BE, THANKS TO THE ROTTEN HAND *LIFE* DEALT ME!

"THAT LOSER EVEN *DEFERRED* LEADERSHIP OF THE EXILES TO *HER!*"

OOOHHHH...

YOU REALLY HAVE THAT BOY WHIPPED, DON'T YOU?

"I'D PLAYED 'WHAT IF' FOR YEARS IN THAT STINKING CELL...

"WHAT IF THINGS HAD GONE DIFFERENTLY? WHAT IF I'D BEEN BORN RICH? WHAT IF I'D HAD A DECENT EDUCATION?

'NOW I KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE LUCKY BREAKS I NEVER GOT...

"...THEY'D ALL GONE TO THIS GUY. I FIGURED IT WAS TIME TO COLLECT..."

WH--? I THOUGHT AVALANCHE DIDN'T MAKE IT?

PRRRMM

WWWMMM

WWWWMBLLLLS

THRAM!

YOU!

YOU MAKE ME SICK!

SLAM

SHE THINKS YOU'RE *BETTER* THAN ME, Y'KNOW? WHAT A *JOKE!* JUST 'CAUSE YOU HAD THE *DUMB LUCK* TO BE BORN IN A BETTER WORLD...

...BUT AFTER I ERASE EVERY GOOD *MEMORY* YOU HAVE, EVERY *LIFE-LESSON*...

...*THEN* WE'LL SEE WHAT KIND OF MAN YOU *REALLY* ARE...

"BUT WHAT I FOUND IN MIMIC'S MIND WAS THE *LAST* THING I EXPECTED.

"NO LOVING PARENTS, NO PRIVILEGED UPBRINGING, NO *SILVER SPOON*...

"...JUST A DIRT-POOR, DESPERATE CHILDHOOD. SHOCKINGLY *FAMILIAR* STUFF, BECAUSE IT WAS EXACTLY THE *SAME* AS MY OWN LIFE!

"*EXACTLY* THE SAME. RIGHT UP UNTIL *CHARLES XAVIER* INVITED ME TO JOIN HIS SCHOOL..."

IMPOSSIBLE...

YOU SAID "YES."

I SPAT IN HIS FACE.

THAT WAS THE *ONLY* DIFFERENCE?

NOT QUITE. YOU STOPPED JUST WHERE IT GOT INTERESTING...

"HE'D MIMICKED MY STOLEN TELEPATHY AND FORCE-FED ME THE REST OF HIS LIFE STORY.

"TURNS OUT HE WAS MUCH HARDER THAN I'D EVER DREAMED.

"AS AN EXILE, HE FACED DAILY DILEMMAS AND IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES THAT COULD COST BILLIONS OF LIVES.

"HE'D BEEN FORCED TO DECEIVE, AND DESTROY... AND KILL WITH HIS OWN TWO HANDS...

"...UNTIL HE REALIZED THAT IF HE SANK ANY LOWER HE'D NEVER RISE BACK UP. FATE OF THE WORLD BE DAMNED--HE HAD TO DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE!

"SO HE SWORE THAT HE WOULD NEVER KILL AGAIN..."

...AND THAT, MY CHILDREN, IS HOW MY *WHOLE LIFE* TURNED AROUND IN *ONE DAY.*

WHEN MY MIND TOUCHED HIS, I *LIVED* HIS EXPERIENCES, YOU UNDERSTAND?

HIS VOW TO CHERISH LIFE BECAME MY OWN. HIS *WISDOM* BECAME *MY* WISDOM.

IT WAS MY *SECOND CHANCE* TO SAY "YES" TO XAVIER, TO ESCAPE THE TRAP OF MY WASTED YOUTH. I FOUNDED THIS SCHOOL TO GIVE ALL OF *YOU* THAT SAME CHANCE.

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *EXILES?*

THEY'D *ACCOMPLISHED* THEIR MISSION--*CHANGING ME.* SO THEY "BLINKED" AWAY TO THE *NEXT* WORLD THAT NEEDED SAVING.

AND I *REDEDICATED* THE BROTHERHOOD TO MAKING *THIS* EARTH A BETTER PLACE, JUST LIKE XAVIER WOULD HAVE WANTED.

IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY, AND THE WORLD IS *FAR* FROM PERFECT...BUT THERE ARE *WORSE POSSIBILITIES.* BELIEVE ME, I'VE *SEEN* THEM!

NEXT: LIVING PLANET!